

This Page Made for and by T. D. C. C. Members

Handsome Gold Badges For January Prizes

Dear Children of the Club:
The second reunion celebrated at the new Bijou last Wednesday afternoon by the presence of the Governor, the Mayor, Mr. Folk Miller, the editors and the children was a great success. I am sure you feel a great success, one which makes all realize what the club has grown to be and what its prospects are for the new year just ahead—1905.

Looking back over the club work, especially that of the past few months, its excellence has so appealed to the club directors that they have determined to offer, for the month of January, two gold medals, handsomely embossed and inscribed, one for the boy and one for the girl belonging to the club, who shall send in, during the month, the best piece of work in any department of the Children's Page, whether it be a story, a drawing, or a puzzle, it matters not, so long as it possesses the highest quality of excellence.

These medals will be given out irrespective of the usual weekly prizes to be sent as heretofore.

The editor congratulates the club on its members, its steady growth and its past achievements. It has accomplished much and, in the New Year, the editor asks that its watchwords may be: ONWARD AND UPWARD!

SILAS MARNER.

CHAPTER VIII.

I. There was a pauper's burial that week in Raveloe and up at Kitchy yard at Batherly it was known that the dark-haired woman who had been seen in the village had come to lodge there, was gone away again. That was all the express note taken that Mollie had disappeared from the eyes of men. Silas Marner's determination to keep the "tramp's" child away from the village was so strong that he had sent her to the workhouse. The Dolly Winthrop, were occupied in telling Silas what he had better do. Silas had shown her the half guinea given him by Godfrey and had asked her what she should do about getting some clothes for the child.

II. "Oh, Master Marner," said Dolly, "there's no call to buy no more nor a pair of shoes; for I've got the little petticoats Aaron wore five years ago, and his ill-spending the money on them baby clothes, for I'll give you like the guinea." May, bless it—that it will.

III. And the same day Dolly brought her bundle and displayed to Marner, one by one, the tiny garments in their due order of succession, most of them patched and darned, but clean and not at all fresh-smelling. This was the introduction to a great ceremony with soup and water, from which Baby came out in new beauty.

IV. "Anybody 'ud think the angels in heaven could be prettier," said Dolly, rubbing the golden curls and kissing them. "I think you're in the right on it, keep the things as they are, and then you can say as you've done for her from the first of her coming to you." Marner took her on his lap, and took the garments from Dolly, and put them on under her teaching, interrupted, of course, by Baby's gymnastics. "There, when she was quite dressed, Dolly took up the thread of her 'admonitory' discourse again.

V. "It's my belief," she said, "as the poor little creature has never been christened and if you say so, I'll ask Mr. Macey to speak at the parson about it, because I must have a name for it, because it must have a name give it when it's christened."

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VIII. "My mother's name was Henzibah," said Silas, "and my little sister was named after her."

IX. "But it was awkward calling your little sister by such a hard name, wasn't it, Master Marner?" said Dolly.

X. "We called her Eppie," answered Marner. And so it came about that baby was christened Eppie, and that she, making herself as clean and tidy as he could, appeared for the first time within Raveloe Church and shared in the observances held sacred by his neighbors.

XI. And when the sunshine grew strong and the buttercups were thick under the daisies, Silas might be seen strolling out with uncovered head to carry Eppie beyond the stone pits, to where the flowers grew, till they reached some favorite bank, where he could sit down, while Eppie would be kneeling very close, calling "dad-dad's" attention continually by bringing him the blossoms. Then, notwithstanding the difficulty of carrying her and his yarn or linen at the same time, Silas took her with him in most of the journeys to the farm houses, and little curly-headed Eppie, the weaver's child, became an object of interest to several "outlying" households, as well as in the village. Happily, as if he had been a useful "knome" or "brownie," but now he must sit a little and talk about the child, and words of interest were always ready for him. The child was afraid of approaching Silas, when Eppie was near him. There was love between him and the child that he "blent" them into one, and there was love between the child and the world—



By LOUISE KENNEDY.

from men and women to the red "lady birds" and the round pebbles.

XII. Silas's disposition to hoard money had been utterly crushed by the loss of his long-stored coins. And now, something had come to replace his hoard, which gave a growing purpose to his earnings, drawing his hope and joy continually onward, beyond the money.

Answers to Chapter VII.

1. Principally in Raveloe, 2. Lantern yard, 3. Fifteen years, 4. He was a weaver, 5. The loss of all his other interests in life and his betrayal by his friends, 6. Under a stone in his floor, 7. Dunstan Cass, 8. The son of "Square" Cass, of Red House and Dunstan's brother, 9. Because she was a drunkard and an opium eater, 10. Because he had kept his marriage secret and feared the disgrace of exposure, 11. On the eve of New Year, 12. Because he was good and kind by nature, and because he had lost all that he cared for in the loss of his gold.

Questions on Chapter VIII.

1. What kind of a gentleman was Marner? 2. What is the meaning of "hap-py" in par. IV? 3. The meaning of "Mothered" in the same paragraph? 4. Explain the use of the word "fending" in par. V? 5. What is the force of "admonitory" in par. VI? 6. Define the word "toddled" in par. XI. 7. What is the meaning of "outlying" in par. XII? 8. The meaning of "knome" in par. XII. 9. The meaning of "brownie" in par. XII. 10. The meaning of "blent" in par. XII. 11. What kind of birds are the "lady birds" mentioned in this paragraph? 12. Define the word "hoard" as used in par. XII.

COMRADE.

About three years ago a gentleman gave me a little motherless lamb. She was very thin and could hardly stand up. I taught her to drink milk from a pan, sweet at first and then buttermilk. She would skip with delight at the sound of the churn and soon grew fat and strong. When my lamb, which I named Daisy, came to me I had a little black pig, named Tip, and they were always together. One day Daisy and Tip ran away. Papa and I looked and looked for them, but could not find them anywhere. They were gone three days, and we decided that they had been stolen, and gave them up for lost. The evening of the third day, we were eating supper. We heard something say Baa! Baa! and then we heard a sharp little bark. I went to the door, and there stood Daisy and Tip, runaway couple, Tip wagging his tail, and barking as if to say I have brought her home.

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LITTLE THINGS.

I. Little drops of water, Little grains of sand, Make the mighty ocean And the pleasant land. II. Thus the little minutes, Jumble though they be, Make the mighty ages Of eternity. III. Little deeds of kindness, Little words of love, Make this earth an Eden, Like the Heaven above. —Selected by Maud N. Brown.

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CHRISTMAS CHORUS.

(By ELISE MAY WEST.)

Listen, listen, said an old lady to herself, How many voices are crying, "Merry Christmas" all over the poor house, She was thinking how lonely this Christmas would be to her. As her thoughts ran over her sad story the big tears ran down her rigid cheeks. A knock at the door aroused her. She arose and hastily wiping away her tears opened the door. When she swung the door back on its hinges, a young girl was seen standing on the threshold.

"How well I remember the first Christmas I spent here," my little brother said to me. He was three years old and how his poor little heart did quiver when he arose Christmas morning and saw nothing in his stocking.

"But, dear grandmother, how far I have come," I said, "I shall have a new coat, a new hat, and a new pair of shoes, but when I first saw you I felt as if I knew you and must tell you my story."

"No, no, my child," said grandmother, "continue your sad story and after it is finished I will tell you mine, this is the way said hearts spend their youth."

"My father and mother were taken from me to-day three years ago and my brother and I were left to tell the story, but to-day how sad, only I am left. He now sings with his mother and father in the celestial choir. The reason I am here is because my father was a drunkard and an opium eater, 10. Because he had kept his marriage secret and feared the disgrace of exposure, 11. On the eve of New Year, 12. Because he was good and kind by nature, and because he had lost all that he cared for in the loss of his gold."

"My oldest brother was kidnapped when I was two years old, and he has never been heard from since."

"Lastly my name is Crystal Keith."

"Now tell me your story, and why you are one of the occupants of Sharks' Tooth or the poorhouse?"

"Well," began dear old grandmother, "my husband and son left me four years ago for New York to buy goods (for they were merchants). For three long days the steamer glided smoothly over the waters of the Pacific, but on the fourth day a cloud arose and a fierce storm raged, on the fourth night the vessel sank, my husband and dear son were swallowed up by the hungry waves."

"Dear dear old grandmother said away, but soon recovered," and continued her story.

"Of course, they took most of their money and left very little with me."

"By the time three years, and three sad years had passed, all of their hard-earned money had vanished like a flock of wild geese, which fly quickly across the sky and are seen no more."

"Under these circumstances this old lady was brought here."

"The tears were again fast falling down the old lady's rigid cheeks and the young girl's fair and smooth cheeks."

"Both after brushing away the tears, I added to the door eager to see who had come to see those two sad faces."

"But in a moment all sorrow was turned to gladness, and this cry was heard throughout the house, Crystal Keith says."

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A BUNCH OF HOLLY.

to her own devices in this garden of enchantment. She continued to walk around, lost in admiration at the richness and beauty of all about her; great trees from which were hanging golden fruit and silvery leaves; fountains, with every sparkling bubble bringing to light rich jewels of every hue. At last she came to what appeared to be a bottomless pit, and on the other side grew the loveliest tree she had ever seen. From this tree hung a graceful spray of brilliant flowers reaching almost across the abyss.

Forgetting herself, she leaped over eagerly to grasp the glittering treasure. She missed her footing and fell down, down, down, and landed with a bump, which awakened her from this dream of enchantment, to the realities of life. Not in the moon at all was she, but lying in her little white bed with the sun's beams peeping slyly over her pillow, as his dazzling orb slowly climbed the blue-topped hills.

ESTELLE FITCHETTE, Waverly, Va.

LOUISE MILES'S BIRTHDAY

It was a week before Louise's birthday. She was happy because her mother had promised her a birthday party. The days went quickly, and Louise was coming down to the breakfast table her mother said to her: "To-day is your birthday. I wish you a happy day."

Her mother was busy baking cakes for the party, and Louise beat the eggs for her. She was still helping her mother

when Cousin Frank came to take her out sleigh riding.

Louise liked to sleigh ride, and ran up stairs to dress. He took her through the park. She saw the animals. Then they drove down town and saw many pretty things in the store windows.

"What do you want for your birthday?" he said.

"Look at that big doll," Louise said. He went in the store and came out with the doll in his arms.

"Oh, isn't she beautiful," said Louise. When they got home Louise ran into the house and said:

"Oh mother, look at my doll; Cousin Frank got her for me. It is just like the one I saw in the window."

Louise found a little box at her plate at dinner. She opened it and found a little gold ring that her mother and father gave her.

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